

Prior to the Election Requirement dated July 5, 2001, claims 4-7 were pending in this application. The Examiner has required election of claims drawn to one of the following identified species, namely:

- I. The embodiment shown in FIG. 2a of the instant application;
- II. the embodiment shown in FIG. 2b of the instant application; and
- II. the embodiment shown in FIG. 3 of the instant application.

Applicants hereby elect with traverse the species as displayed in FIG. 2b, and identify claim 5 as belonging to that species. Claims 4 and 7 have been identified as generic by the Examiner and are still pending. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the subject matter of any cancelled claims.

Applicants traverse the election requirement based on there being, prior to this response, a first restriction requirement after which only 4 total claims remain for prosecution. The amount of claims present after the first restriction requirement do not appear to present an undue burden to the Examiner in completing a search of the prior art or determining patentability of the alleged species. Most telling is the fact that the only independent claim remaining in the present application has been identified as generic to all asserted species.

Should the Examiner continue the election requirement, applicants elect to cancel claim 6 and pursue prosecution of the remaining claims 4, 5 and 7, with claim 5 drawn to Species II identified above. Consideration and allowance of pending claims 4, 5 and 7 are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone applicant's undersigned counsel at the number noted below if it will advance the prosecution of this application.

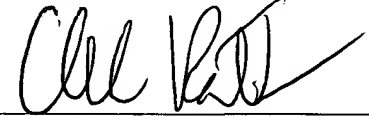
The Assistant Commissioner of Patents is hereby authorized to charge any further fees that are properly assessable for this application or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1948-4631.

Respectfully submitted,

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